

## **ANNEX 4 (ESF-4)**

### **FIREFIGHTING**

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**PRIMARY:** Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, Division of Fire and Life Safety (Structural Fires)

Forestry Commission (Wildland Fires)

**SUPPORT:** Department of Transportation, Division of Engineering; SC Law Enforcement Division; Department of Public Safety

#### **I. INTRODUCTION**

- A. State program assistance under this function shall include actions taken through the application of equipment, manpower and technical expertise to control and suppress urban, rural, and wildland fires that have, or threaten to, become disasters. Provision of such services will be in accordance with the Firefighter Mobilization Act of 2000, mutual aid compact agreements with local governments, private industry, other states and established recognized standard fire fighting methods.
- B. The potential for damage from fires in urban areas during and after a major disaster is extremely high. Numerous fires have the potential to spread rapidly causing extensive damage and threatening life and property. Normally available firefighting resources may be difficult to obtain and utilize because of massive disruptions of communications, transportation, utility and water systems.

#### **II. MISSION**

To coordinate and mobilize fire and emergency services resources, personnel and equipment; and coordinate other state resources to support local governments and other states with these resources to detect and suppress urban, rural, wildland fires, and other fire protection issues.

#### **III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS**

- A. ESF-4 consists of two distinct components, structural fires and wildland fires, with a separate agency responsible for each component. Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, Division of Fire and Life Safety is responsible for the coordination of all administrative, management, planning, training, preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery activities pertaining to structural fires. SC Forestry Commission is responsible for the coordination of all administrative, management, planning, training, preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery activities pertaining to wildland fires. Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, Division of Fire and Life Safety and the SC Forestry

Commission will be jointly responsible for developing, coordinating, and maintaining the ESF-4 SOP. All ESF-4 supporting agencies will assist the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, Division of Fire and Life Safety and the Forestry Commission in the planning and execution of the above. All ESF-4 personnel will be trained on the principles of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and Incident Command and integrate those principles into all ESF-4 planning and response operations.

- B. Coordination with all supporting and other appropriate departments/agencies and organizations who may support ESF-4 will be performed to ensure operational readiness prior to, during or after an incident, emergency, or disaster.
- C. The SC Forestry Commission will support ESF-4 and have primary responsibility for coordinating all wildland fire suppression. The Forestry Commission will function under its own statutory and internal guidelines. Wildland fire protection in unincorporated areas is the responsibility of the Forestry Commission, but it may be supplemented by other resources, to include ESF-4 agencies, when requested. The Forestry Commission will assume incident command responsibilities if the incident is a forest or wildland fire. If public fire service organizations are involved they will support the Forestry Commission by protecting structures and property as assigned, and will provide a liaison officer to the incident command staff (see SC Code of Laws 48-33-40).
- D. Municipal governments and fire districts are responsible for providing fire prevention and suppression services within their incorporated areas. ESF-4 will provide assistance when requested.
- E. County, city, towns and other fire protection organizations are responsible for requesting state support through the appropriate county emergency management agency when a fire hazard, fire incident, or disaster exceeds local capabilities. Additional assistance may be other state agencies, private companies, and cooperating industries. Based on known or projected threats, imminent hazards or predicted disasters that may require additional resources, ESF-4 may mobilize resources and stage them at designated locations in a condition to respond if assistance is requested.
- F. The Firefighter Mobilization Act of 2000 mobilizes fire and rescue services statewide to respond to any type of emergency that requires additional resources. ESF-4 will use the mobilization plan to obtain additional fire resources, as needed.

- G. In coordination with, and in support of, the State Assessment Team (SAT), ESF-4 will assess the situation (both pre- and post-event), and in coordination with local emergency management officials, develop strategies to respond to the emergency.

#### **IV. ESF ACTIONS**

In preparation for and execution of its fire protection mission, ESF-4 will:

##### **A. Preparedness**

1. Maintain current inventories of fire service facilities, equipment, and qualified personnel throughout the state.
2. Organize and train fire service emergency teams to rapidly respond to requests for assistance.
3. Monitor weather and hazardous conditions that contribute to increased fire danger.
4. Maintain personnel and equipment in a state of readiness appropriate to existing and anticipated emergency conditions to include mobilizing resources and staging them at various locations.
5. Based on hazardous conditions, conduct fire prevention and education activities for the public.
6. Participate in state exercises and conduct, at least annually, an ESF-4 exercise to validate this annex and supporting SOPs.
7. Annually review the Department of Homeland Security Universal Task List and integrate tasks as appropriate.
8. Ensure all ESF-4 personnel integrate NIMS principles in all planning. All ESF personnel will complete all required NIMS training, as outlined in the 2006 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) training guidance.

##### **B. Response**

1. Support local fire departments and the Forestry Commission with appropriate resources to include mobilizing and deploying firefighting teams and resources as needed.
2. Coordinate with ESF-19 for use of state military assets to support firefighting operations.

3. Monitor status of firefighting resources committed to an incident.
4. Maintain staging area locations.
5. Plan for and establish relief resources to replace or rotate with committed resources for extended operations.
6. Support fire investigations and inspections, as requested.
7. Obtain and submit fire situation and damage assessment reports and provide information to SEOC.
8. Establish communications with the Federal Regional Fire Coordinator, when activated, to coordinate fire service response beyond the state's capability.
9. When the situation dictates, coordinate with the Forestry Commission to invoke the Southeastern States Forest Fire Compact.
10. Once resources are requested, provide for direct liaison with fire chiefs in affected areas to coordinate requests for specific assistance.
11. Require supporting agencies maintain appropriate records of cost incurred during an event.
12. Document any lost or damaged equipment, any personnel or equipment accidents.

C. Recovery

1. Maintain adequate resources to support local operations and plan for a reduction of resources.
2. Conduct reviews of incident actions with teams involved to improve future operations.
3. Inventory any lost or damaged equipment and record any personnel injuries or equipment accidents.
4. Anticipate and plan for arrival of and coordination with FEMA ESF-4 personnel in the SEOC and the Joint Field Office (JFO).

5. Inform agencies that provided resources where to send records for costs incurred during an event.

D. Mitigation

1. Support and plan for mitigation measures.
2. Support requests and directives resulting from the Governor and/or FEMA concerning mitigation and/or re-development activities.
3. Document matters that may be needed for inclusion in agency or state/federal briefings, situation reports and action plans.

V. **RESPONSIBILITIES**

A. Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, Division of Fire and Life Safety

1. Identify, train, and provide Division of Fire and Life Safety personnel to staff ESF-4 in the SEOC.
2. Notify all ESF-4 (structural fires) supporting agencies upon activation.
3. Maintain database inventories of fire service facilities, equipment, and qualified personnel throughout the state.
4. Develop, organize, train, alert, activate, and deploy firefighting teams.
5. Monitor status of all fire service operations and provide updates to SEOC.

B. Forestry Commission

1. Identify, train, and provide Forestry Commission personnel to staff ESF-4 in the SEOC.
2. Notify all ESF-4 (wildland fires) supporting agencies upon activation.
3. Maintain inventories of Forestry Commission fire facilities, equipment, and personnel throughout the state.

4. Support ESF-4 with technical staff and maintain Forestry Commission resources ready to respond to support ESF-4 and wildland fires.
5. Invoke the Southeastern States Forest Fire Compact when the situation dictates.
6. Provide fire weather and danger forecasts to all wildfire suppression forces through the Forestry Commission communication network.
7. Monitor weather and forest fuel hazardous conditions that contributes to increased fire danger.
8. Conduct statewide wildfire prevention to include public wildfire information and education activities for the public.
9. Issue Red Flag Fire Alert warnings and State Forester's Burning Bans (SC Code: 48.35.50) as needed. Request Governor's Burning Ban (SC Code 48.31.10) as appropriate.
10. Conduct evaluation of burned areas with regard to need for salvage and reforestation.
11. If required, coordinate the evaluation of wildlife habitat and watershed damage from responsible agencies.

C. Department of Transportation, Division of Engineering

1. Identify, train, and assign DOT personnel to maintain contact with and prepare to execute missions in support of ESF-4 (structural fires and wildland fires) during periods of activation.
2. Maintain inventories of DOT assets used to support fire service operations.
3. Provide equipment, fuel, personnel, shop service, and transportation assets to support fire service operations.

D. SC Law Enforcement Division

1. Identify, train, and assign SLED personnel to maintain contact with and prepare to execute missions in support of ESF-4 (structural fires and wildland fires) during periods of activation.
2. Conduct arson investigations.

- E. Department of Public Safety
  - 1. Identify, train, and assign DPS personnel to maintain contact with and prepare to execute missions in support of ESF 4 during periods of activation.
  - 2. Assist with evacuations and highway closings resulting from fires.
  - 3. Patrol highways as required.

## **VI. FEDERAL INTERFACE**

- A. This Annex is supported by National Response Plan ESF-4 (Firefighting).
- B. Federal firefighting response support is coordinated by the Regional Fire Coordinator provided by the Forest Service Regional Office. The Regional Fire Coordinator is responsible for establishing and maintaining coordination with the National Fire Suppression Liaison Officer, Forest Service Region, regional support agencies, and the Emergency Response Team (ERT). A Fire Suppression Support Coordinator at the Joint Field Office (JFO) will represent ESF-4.
- C. Coordination with, and support of state and local fire suppression organizations is accomplished through the State Forester, SCEMD, Deputy Director, LLR Fire and Life Safety, and other appropriate fire suppression organizations operating under NIMS and ICS.
- D. ESF-4 will manage and coordinate federal firefighting activities. This will be accomplished by mobilizing firefighting resources in support of state and local wildland, rural, and urban firefighting agencies. ESF-4 will use established firefighting and support organizations, processes, and procedures. Responsibility for situation assessment and determination of resource needs lies primarily with the local incident commanders in coordination with the ERT at the JFO.
- E. All ESF-4 personnel will be familiar with the National Response Plan (NRP) and the corresponding annex with Federal counterpart concepts, actions and responsibilities. This familiarization will include but not be limited to the make up, functions and responsibilities of the Emergency Response Team – Advanced Element (ERT-A), Interagency Incident Management Groups (IIMG) and the Joint Field Office (JFO).
- F. State ESF-4 will coordinate with Federal ESF-4 to obtain federal assistance as required.

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